## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

   receiving a packet from a first network device to a second network device,

   wherein the first and second network devices are connected to form a link,

   the first network device and the second network device each having a

   version of a ~~dynamic, intradomain, distributed, flat, single path, distance~~

   ~~vector~~ routing protocol, the packet identifying the first network device's

   routing protocol version;

   determining whether the first network device's routing protocol version is the

   same as the second network device's routing protocol version; ~~and~~

   verifying the first network device' routing protocol version as being the same as

   the second network device's routing protocol version;

   choosing the same routing protocol version acceptable to the first and second

   network devices; and

   configuring the link such that the routing protocol ~~versions~~ version is the same for

   ~~of~~ the first and second network devices ~~are the same~~.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the version of the routing protocol of

   each network device is one of a triggered type or a periodic type, and the method

   further comprises detecting the first network device's routing protocol type, and

   determining whether the first network device's routing protocol type is the same

   as the second network device's routing protocol type.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising configuring the

   link such that the routing protocol ~~types~~ version of the first and second network

   devices ~~are the same~~ comprises a default routing protocol version or a preferred

   routing protocol version.

4.    (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the routing protocol is comprises a Routing Information Protocol (RIP).

5.    (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the version of RIP is comprises one of Version 1 or Version 2.

6.    (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the version of the RIP of each of the first and second network device devices is one of a triggered type or a periodic type.

Claims 7-8  (Cancelled)

9.    (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

      determining whether a first network device's routing protocol version is the same as a second network device's routing protocol version;

      verifying the first network device's routing protocol version being the same as the second network device's routing protocol version; and

      configuring a link including a the first network device and a the second network device, each network device including a dynamic, intradomain, distributed, flat, single-path, distance vector the same routing protocol having a version and a type, such that the routing protocol versions of the first and second network devices are the same and the types of the routing protocol versions are the same.

10.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the routing protocol is comprises a Routing Information Protocol (RIP).

11.    (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the version of the RIP ~~is~~ comprises one of Version 1 or Version 2.

12.    (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the version of the RIP of each of the first and second network ~~device~~ devices is one of a triggered type or a periodic type.

Claims 13-14 (Cancelled)

15.    (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus comprising a machine accessible~~ A machine-readable medium having stored thereon a set of ~~containing~~ instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to ~~perform operations comprising~~:

   ~~receiving~~ receive a packet from a first network device to a second network device, wherein the first and second network devices are connected to form a link, the first network device and the second network device each having a version of ~~a dynamic, intradomain, distributed, flat, single path, distance vector~~ routing protocol, the packet identifying the first network device's routing protocol version,

   ~~determining~~ determine whether the first network device's routing protocol version is the same as the second network device's routing protocol version; ~~and~~

   verify the first network device' routing protocol version as being the same as the second network device's routing protocol version;

   choose the same routing protocol version acceptable to the first and second network devices; and

   ~~configuring~~ configure the link such that the routing protocol ~~versions~~ version is the same for ~~of~~ the first and second network devices ~~are the same~~.

16.     (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ machine-readable medium of claim 15,
wherein the version of the routing protocol of each network device is one of a
triggered type or a periodic type, and the ~~method further comprises~~ set of
instructions which, when executed by the machine, further cause the machine to
~~detecting~~ detect the first network device's routing protocol type, and to
~~determining~~ determine whether the first network device's routing protocol type is
the same as the second network device's routing protocol type.

17.     (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ machine-readable medium of claim 16,
~~further comprising configuring~~ wherein the set of instructions which, when
executed by the machine, further cause the machine to configure the link such that
the routing protocol ~~types~~ version of the first and second network devices ~~are the~~
~~same~~ comprises a default routing protocol version or a preferred routing protocol
version.

18.     (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ machine-readable medium of claim 15,
wherein the routing protocol ~~is~~ comprises a Routing Information Protocol (RIP).

19.     (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ machine-readable medium of claim 18,
wherein the version of RIP ~~is~~ comprises one of Version 1 or Version 2.

20.     (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ machine-readable medium of claim 18
wherein the version of the RIP of each of the first and second network ~~device~~
devices is one of a triggered type or a periodic type.

21.     (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus comprising a machine accessible~~ A machine-
readable medium having thereon a set ~~containing~~ instructions which, when
executed by a machine, cause the machine to ~~perform operations comprising~~:

determine whether a first network device's routing protocol version is the same as a second network device's routing protocol version;

verify the first network device's routing protocol version being the same as the second network device's routing protocol version; and

~~configuring~~ configure a link including ~~a~~ the first network device and ~~a~~ the second network device, each network device including a ~~dynamic, intradomain, distributed, flat, single-path, distance-vector~~ routing protocol ~~having a~~ version ~~and a type, such that the routing protocol versions of the first and second network devices are the same and the types of the routing protocol versions are the same~~.

22.    (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the routing protocol ~~is~~ comprises Routing Information Protocol (RIP).

23.    (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ machine-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the version of the RIP is one of Version 1 or Version 2.

24.    (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ machine-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the version of the RIP of each network device is one of a triggered type or a periodic type.

Claims 25-26 (Cancelled)

27.    (New) An apparatus, comprising:

a second network device to receive a packet from a first network device, wherein the first and second network devices are connected to form a link, the first network device and the second network device each having a version of routing protocol, the packet identifying the first network device's routing protocol version; and

a processor coupled with the first and second network devices, the processor to

determine whether the first network device's routing protocol version is

the same as the second network device's routing protocol version,

verify the first network device' routing protocol version as being the same

as the second network device's routing protocol version,

choose the same routing protocol version acceptable to the first and

second network devices, and

configure the link such that the routing protocol version is the same for the

first and second network devices.

28.    (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the version of the routing protocol of

each network device is one of a triggered type or a periodic type, and the

processor is further to detect the first network device's routing protocol type, and

to determine whether the first network device's routing protocol type is the same

as the second network device's routing protocol type.

29.    (New) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the processor is further to configure the

link such that the routing protocol version of the first and second network devices

comprises a default routing protocol version or a preferred routing protocol

version.

30.    (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the routing protocol comprises a

Routing Information Protocol (RIP).

31.    (New) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the version of RIP comprises one of

Version 1 or Version 2.

32.    (New) A system, comprising:

a second network device to receive a packet from a first network device, wherein

the first and second network devices are connected to form a link, the first

network device and the second network device each having a version of

routing protocol, the packet identifying the first network device's routing

protocol version;

a processor coupled with the storage medium and the first and second network

devices, the processor to

determine whether the first network device's routing protocol version is

the same as the second network device's routing protocol version,

verify the first network device' routing protocol version as being the same

as the second network device's routing protocol version,

choose the same routing protocol version acceptable to the first and

second network devices, and

configure the link such that the routing protocol version is the same for the

first and second network devices; and

a storage medium coupled with the processor, the storage medium to store

instructions to facilitate the processor to determine, verify, choose, and

configure.

33.    (New) The system of claim 32, wherein the version of the routing protocol of

each network device is one of a triggered type or a periodic type, and the

processor is further to detecting the first network device's routing protocol type,

and to determine whether the first network device's routing protocol type is the same as the second network device's routing protocol type.

34.   (New) The system of claim 33, wherein the processor is further to configure the link such that the routing protocol version of the first and second network devices comprises a default routing protocol version or a preferred routing protocol version.

35.   (New) The system of claim 32, wherein the routing protocol comprises a Routing Information Protocol (RIP).

36.   (New) The system of claim 34, wherein the version of RIP comprises one of Version 1 or Version 2.